

Everett	Kucinich	Putnam
Feeney	Kuhl (NY)	Radanovich
Flake	LaHood	Rahall
Foley	Latham	Regula
Forbes	Lewis (CA)	Rehberg
Fortenberry	Lewis (KY)	Reynolds
Fossella	Linder	Rogers (KY)
Franks (AZ)	Lipinski	Rogers (MI)
Frelinghuysen	Lofgren, Zoe	Rohrabacher
Garrett (NJ)	Lucas	Ruppersberger
Gilchrest	Lungren, Daniel	Ryan (WI)
Gillmor	E.	Ryun (KS)
Gingrey	Lynch	Sanchez, Loretta
Goode	Mack	Saxton
Goodlatte	Marchant	Schmidt
Granger	Marshall	Schwarz (MI)
Graves	Matsui	Serrano
Green, Gene	McCotter	Sessions
Gutknecht	McCrery	Shadegg
Harris	McDermott	Shaw
Hart	McHugh	Shays
Hastings (WA)	McKeon	Sherwood
Hayes	McKinney	Shimkus
Hefley	McMorris	Shuster
Hensarling	Miller (FL)	Skelton
Herger	Miller (MI)	Smith (TX)
Hinchey	Miller, Gary	Smith (WA)
Hobson	Mollohan	Sodrel
Hoekstra	Moore (WI)	Sullivan
Hulshof	Murphy	Sweeney
Hunter	Murtha	Taylor (MS)
Inglis (SC)	Myrick	Taylor (NC)
Inslee	Neugebauer	Terry
Issa	Ney	Thomas
Istook	Norwood	Thornberry
Jackson-Lee	Nunes	Tiahrt
(TX)	Ortiz	Turner
Jenkins	Osborne	Upton
Johnson (CT)	Otter	Walden (OR)
Johnson, E. B.	Oxley	Walsh
Johnson, Sam	Pastor	Wamp
Jones (NC)	Pearce	Waters
Jones (OH)	Pence	Weldon (FL)
Kanjorski	Peterson (MN)	Weldon (PA)
Kaptur	Petri	Weller
Kelly	Pickering	Westmoreland
Kilpatrick (MI)	Pitts	Whitfield
King (IA)	Pombo	Wicker
King (NY)	Pomeroy	Wilson (NM)
Kirk	Porter	Wilson (SC)
Kline	Price (GA)	Wu
Knollenberg	Price (NC)	Young (AK)
Kolbe	Pryce (OH)	Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—9

Bono	Gibbons	Nussle
Davis (FL)	Kingston	Peterson (PA)
Evans	Manzullo	Reyes

□ 1711

Messrs. CLEAVER, DINGELL, ROHRBACHER, CUELLAR, FEENEY and WU, and Ms. MCKINNEY and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, changed their vote from "aye" to "no."

Messrs. EDWARDS, GALLEGLY, MCHENRY, FERGUSON, FORD and LOBIONDO changed their vote from "no" to "aye."

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) having assumed the Chair, Mr. THORNBERRY, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5522) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

PERMISSION TO REDUCE TIME FOR ELECTRONIC VOTING DURING CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5522, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during further consideration of H.R. 5522 pursuant to House Resolution 851, the Chair may reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for electronic voting under clause 6 of rule XVIII and clause 9 of rule XX.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Appropriations:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 8, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Please accept my resignation, effective immediately, from the House Committee on Appropriations.

It has been my great pleasure to serve on the committee under the fine leadership of Chairman Jerry Lewis and Chairman Bill Young.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

TOM DELAY,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is, Shall the resignation be accepted?

The gentleman from Texas is recognized.

□ 1715

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, political careers tend to end in one of three ways: defeat, death, or retirement. And despite the fervent and mostly noble exertions of my adversaries over the years, I rise today to bid farewell to this House under the happiest of the available options.

I wish to begin the end of my congressional career by publicly thanking for the last time as their Representative the people of the 22nd District of Texas. Everything I have ever been able to accomplish here I owe and dedicate to them. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve them here.

Mr. Speaker, the real Speaker, he is on his way. I want to tell the real Speaker it has been a real honor to serve with DENNY HASTERT, who is my good friend, my most trusted partner and colleague. I want to take just a moment to congratulate him myself on becoming the longest serving Republican Speaker in history.

What a blessing this place is, Mr. Speaker. What a castle of hope this building is, this institution is for the people of the world. It is one of those

things in political life that you always know, but seldom notice. The schedules we are forced to keep during our days in Washington are not always hospitable to sitting back and reflecting on the historical significance of our surroundings.

In the weeks since I announced my retirement, however, I have found myself doing just that. I notice things like I have not in years. I notice the monuments on the Mall. I notice that in Washington's obelisk, the Father of Our Country is represented not as an object of glory, but as a dutiful sentry at attention, minding his post for eternity.

I notice that under Jefferson's dome, the statue of the man is relatively understated, while his etched words still thunder from the marble with the power to drive history.

I notice that Lincoln's chair, the man who sought above all peace and reconciliation, keeps one of his hands in a perpetual fist. I walk these halls with a keener perspective. I notice now the statues of old and great, and in some cases almost forgotten, heroes that line the halls of this building, that stand in Statuary Hall.

In these halls I have also noticed in recent weeks the number of tourists in the Capitol who speak no English. They are not from America, most of these visitors, and yet, in a certain sense, of course they are. They may speak Italian or Polish or Japanese, but the freedoms they enjoy, both here and in their own country, have been inspired, won and secured by the ideals and the courage and the compassion of the American people.

These pilgrims come from all over the world to the House of Representatives to sit up in these galleries, photograph the statues, and stare up at the rotunda, to bear witness to the awesome feat of human liberty we have achieved right here.

The dome above us, Mr. Speaker, is a light house, a star even, by which all of the people in the world, no matter how oppressed, how impoverished, how seemingly without hope can chart a course towards security, prosperity, and freedom.

It is worth considering, though I will admit it is considerably easier to consider after you have announced your retirement, whether the days we lead here, the debates we wage, the work we do is always worthy of the elevated ideals embodied in that dome.

I submit that we could do better, as could all people in all things at all times, but perhaps not in the way some might think. In preparing for today, I found that it is customary in speeches such as these to reminisce about the good old days of political harmony, and across-the-aisle camaraderie, and to lament the bitter divisive partisan rancor that supposedly now weakens our democracy.

Well, I cannot do that, because partisanship, Mr. Speaker, properly understood, is not a symptom of democracy's

weakness, but of its health and its strength, especially from the perspective of a political conservative.

Liberalism, after all, whatever you may think of its merits, is a political philosophy and a proud one, with a great tradition in this country with a voracious appetite for growth. In any place, or any time, on any issue, what does liberalism ever seek, Mr. Speaker? More. More government. More taxation. More control over people's lives and decisions and wallets.

If conservatives do not stand up to liberalism, no one will. And for a long time around here, almost no one did. Indeed, the common lament over the recent rise in political partisanship is often nothing more than a veiled complaint instead about the recent rise of political conservatism.

I should add here that I do not begrudge liberals their nostalgia for the days of a timid, docile, and permanent Republican minority. If we Republicans had ever enjoyed that same luxury over the last 12 years, heck, I would be nostalgic too.

Had liberals not fought us tooth and nail over tax cuts and budget cuts and energy and Iraq and partial birth abortion, those of us on this side of the aisle can only imagine all of the additional things we could have accomplished.

But the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, they did not agree with us. So to their credit, they stood up to us. They argued with us. And they did so honorably on behalf of more than 100 million people, just like we did against President Clinton and they did against President Reagan.

Now, it goes without saying, Mr. Speaker, that by my count, our friends on the other side of the aisle lost every one of those arguments over the last 22 years, but that is besides the point. The point is, we disagree. On first principles, Mr. Speaker, we disagree. And so we debate, often loudly and often in vain, to convince our opponents and the American people of our point of view.

We debate here on the House floor. We debate in committees. We debate on television, and on radio and on the Internet and in the newspapers; and then every 2 years we have a huge debate, and then in November, we see who won.

That is not rancor; that is democracy. You show me a Nation without partisanship, and I will show you a tyranny. For all its faults, it is partisanship based on core principles that clarifies our debates, that prevents one party from straying too far from the mainstream, and that constantly refreshes our politics with new ideas and new leaders.

Indeed, whatever role partisanship may have played in my own retirement today, or in the unfriendliness heaped upon other leaders in other times, Republican or Democrat, however unjust, all we can say is that partisanship is the worst means of settling funda-

mental political differences, except for all of the others.

Now, politics demands compromise, and, Mr. Speaker, even the most partisan among us have to understand that. But we must never forget that compromise and bipartisanship are means, not ends, and are properly employed only in the service of higher principles. It is not the principled partisan, however obnoxious he may seem to his opponents who degrade our public debate, but the preening self-styled statesman who elevates compromise to a first principle.

For the true statesman, Mr. Speaker, we are not defined by what they compromise, but what they do not. Conservatives, especially less enamored of government's lust for growth, must remember that our principles must always drive our agenda and not the other way around.

For us conservatives, there are two such principles that can never be honorably compromised: human freedom and human dignity. Now, our agenda over the last 12 years has been an outgrowth of these first principles.

We lowered taxes to increase freedom. We reformed welfare programs that however well intentioned undermined the dignity of work and personal responsibility and perpetuated poverty.

We have opposed abortion, cloning and euthanasia because such procedures fundamentally deny the unique dignity of the human person. And we have supported the spread of democracy and the ongoing war against terror, because those policies protect and affirm the inalienable human right of all men and women and children to live in freedom.

Conservatism is often unfairly accused of being insensitive and mean-spirited, sometimes unfortunately, even by other conservatives. As a result, conservatives often attempt to soften that stereotype by overfunding broken programs or glossing over ruinous policies. But conservatism is not about feeling people's pain; it is about curing it.

And the results since the first great conservative victory in the 1980s speak for themselves. Millions of new jobs, new homes, and new businesses created, thanks to conservative economic reforms. Millions of families intact and enriched by the move from welfare to work. Hundreds of millions of people around the world liberated by a conservative foreign policy victory over Soviet Communism, and more than 50 million Iraqis and Afghans liberated from tyranny since September 11, 2001.

To all of the critics of the supposedly mean-spirited conservative policies that brought about these results, I say only this: compassionate is as compassionate does.

Now, when I say that word, Mr. Speaker, compassionate, my thoughts turn to one person, my wife, Christine. Twelve years ago, Christine became what is called a court-appointed special advocate for abused and neglected

children. And soon thereafter we became foster parents ourselves to three such children.

Over the last 10 years, I have spent more time and energy on the plight and needs of abused, neglected children than on any other single issue. It is an issue that transcends politics, let alone partisanship, and one that will continue to command a disproportionate amount of my time as a private citizen.

I am concerned, however, about whether it will receive the attention it deserves here in Washington, D.C. And because this is the last time I may ever command the attention of the House and of the national media, I will make one more plea before I go.

The catastrophe of America's child welfare and foster care systems is a national outrage, a government failure, and a bipartisan embarrassment. Congresses, administrations, Governors and State legislatures of every party and ideological bent for almost 100 years have thrown abused and neglected children into a vicious cycle of violence, fear, and instability.

Children who have already been beaten and betrayed by the people that are supposed to love them the most are routinely tossed from one temporary placement to another, often 10 to 20 times during their most formative, vulnerable years.

The system we have created still includes perverse economic incentives that deny children permanent homes, and in some States still lacks meaningful child monitoring or even background checks for prospective foster parents. The courts charged with overseeing each case are overrun with unrelated duties. So the thankless, unexciting work of looking after foster kids is just set aside in favor of more glamorous cases on the docket.

□ 1730

Bureaucracies layered one on top of another consign these children to the perdition of government and foster care for years at a time and with little or no effort made to finding them permanent loving forever families.

Instead, every few months these children throw their despair and distrust into a black plastic trash bag along with their few belongings and head off to the next place, the next letdown. They are abused and neglected long before they ever reach our abusive and neglectful foster care system and once in, things often only get worse.

Children are dying, Mr. Speaker, inside and out, and it is our fault. There is legislation now waiting in the Senate to help expedite interstate placement of foster children, and within its narrow focus this bill will do some good on the margins of some cases. I am proud of what little I have been able to accomplish for these children over the years, but in truth, I have only moved molehills, not mountains.

So I leave you today not by asking that one take up this cause, but by asking that all of you do. That you listen to the stories of these children and

the stories that they tell and study the broken system we have created for them and help them, for God's sake, help them.

I ask this of Republicans and Democrats alike, not in the name of bipartisanship but in the name of principle, which brings me back, Mr. Speaker, to those memorials and those statues.

The great Americans honored here in bronze and marble, the heroes of our history and the ghosts of these halls were not made great because of what they were but because of what they did. George Washington and Abraham Lincoln have almost nothing in common with Junipero Serra and Jack Swigert, except the choice they each made, to live, to fight and even to die in the service of freedom. We honor men with monuments not because of their greatness or even simply because of their service, but because of their refusal even in the face of danger or death to ever compromise the principles they served.

Washington's obelisk still stands watch because democracy will always need a sentry. Jefferson's words will still ring because liberty will always need a voice. And Lincoln's left hand still stays clenched because tyranny will always need an enemy. And we are still here, Mr. Speaker, as a House and as a Nation because the torch of freedom cannot carry itself.

Here on this floor, I have caught and thrown spears of every sort. Over the course of 22 years, I have probably worked with and against almost everyone in this Chamber at least once. I have scraped and clawed for every vote, every amendment for every word of every bill that I believed in my heart would protect human freedom and defend human dignity. I have done so at all times honorably and honestly, Mr. Speaker, with God as my witness and history as my judge. And if given the chance to do it all again, there is only one thing I would change. I would fight even harder.

This place has given me so many memories, so much life. For 22 years, I have served the best I knew how. In this House, I have found my life's calling and my soul's savior. Eight years ago, I witnessed evil in the murder of two Capitol Hill police officers, one just outside my office and another, a very dear friend on my protection detail, inside my office itself. And 5 years ago, I witnessed unparalleled courage as their surviving comrades stood at their posts inside this building during the frantic evacuation on 9/11. They are around us every day, the Capitol Police force.

I tell you, those police officers are Members' and staffs' own personal army of guardian angels. They are the bravest men and women serving under this dome, and I offer them now, one more time, my great respect and admiration because believe it or not, Mr. Speaker, this is a happy day for me, though admittedly perhaps not as happy as it is for some of our old

friends on the other side of the aisle. But nothing, not this retirement, not tough losses or old wounds, can detract from the joy that I feel and the blessings I offer to this House and its Members.

I say good-bye today, Mr. Speaker, with few regrets, no doubt. And so with love and gratitude for friends and foe alike, patriots all, I yield back the floor of our beloved House. And I exit as always, stage right.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5252, COMMUNICATIONS OPPORTUNITY, PROMOTION, AND ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2006

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the vote on adoption of House Resolution 850, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 262, nays 151, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 237]

YEAS—262

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachus
Baker
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Beauprez
Berkley
Biggart
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Clay
Clyburn
Coble

Cole (OK)
Conaway
Costa
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (AL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeLay
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Feeney
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrist
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Green, Gene

Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Higgins
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hostettler
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Ingalls (SC)
Issa
Istook
Jefferson
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Latham
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Mack
Marchant
Marshall
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery

McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moore (KS)
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Osborne
Otter
Oxley
Pastor
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Porter

Price (GA)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Schmidt
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson

Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Sodrel
Souder
Spratt
Stearns
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Udall (NM)
Upton
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—151

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Bean
Becerra
Berman
Berry
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carson
Case
Cleaver
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Cummings
Diaz (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Frank (MA)
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Grijalva
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Holden

Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
Kucinich
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Millender-
McDonald
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey

Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rangel
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ryan (OH)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sherman
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Stark
Stupak
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Woolsey
Wu

NOT VOTING—19

Bono
Davis (FL)
Edwards
Evans
Gibbons
Gillmor
Harris

Kingston
Kirk
LaTourette
Manzullo
Moore (WI)
Nussle
Paul

Peterson (PA)
Pryce (OH)
Reyes
Strickland
Udall (CO)